

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INRE-00 SY-05 USSS-00 A-01 OPR-02 OC-05 CCO-00 SCCT-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 742

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR

SUBJECT: PROTEST ON DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST SOVIET PERSONNEL IN
NEW YORK

1. DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KORNIYENKO CALLED ME IN URGENTLY
MORNING OF MARCH 3 TO PROTEST RECENT DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST
SOVIET PERSONNEL IN NEW YORK. PRESENT A MEETING WERE SOKOLOV,
COUNSELOR USA DIVISION, AND NOTETAKER. BREMENT ACCOMPANIED ME.

2. KORNIYENKO MADE ORAL STATEMENT, WHICH HE HANDED TO ME AFTER
WARD AS NON-PAPER. INFORMAL TRANSLATION FOLLOWS:

"THE USSR MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEEMS IT NECESSARY TO CALL
TO THE ATTENTION OF THE U.S. EMBASSY A NEW PROVOCATIVE ACTION
DIRECTED AGAINST THE SOVIET UN MISSION AND ITS PERSONNEL. ON
FEBRUARY 29 OF THIS YEAR, FOR A PERIOD OF OVER TWO HOURS, A
CROWD OF DISORDERLY ZIONISTS CHANTED SLOGANS, SHOUTED OBSCENTIES
AND INSULTS, AND THREW STONES AT PASSING SOVIET CITIZENS AND
AUTOMOBILES. DESERVING SPECIAL ATTENTION IS THE FACT THAT
PARTICIPANTS OF THIS ASSEMBLAGE WORE PLACARDS WITH STATEMENTS
CONTAINING THREATS TO KIDNAP SOVIET CITIZENS AND INFLICT BODILY
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HARM ON THEM. SIMULTANEOUSLY, A SIMILAR DEMONSTRATION TOOK PLACE

AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF AEROFLOT IN NEW YORK.

"THE OCCURRENCE IN RECENT DAYS OF REPEATED CRUDE PROVOCATIONS AND CRIMINAL ACTIONS AGAINST SOVIET OFFICES AND CITIZENS IN NEW YORK SHOWS THAT WHAT IS CLEARLY TAKING PLACE IS A PLANNED HOSTILE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION. EQUALLY APPARENT IS THAT IT IS FACILITATED BY THE INACTIONS, FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES, OF THE APPROPRIATE AMERICAN AUTHORITIES, WHICH DO NOT UNDERTAKE REALLY EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO PUT AN END TO THESE DISGRACEFUL OUTRAGES AND TO PUNISH THE GUILTY.

"IN EXPRESSING ITS PROTEST CONCERNING THE CONTINUED PROVOCATORY INCIDENTS AGAINST SOVIET AGENCIES IN THE U.S., THE MINISTRY INSISTS THAT U.S. AUTHORITIES TAKE SPEEDY AND EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO PUT AN END TO THE HOSTILE CAMPAIGN WHICH DAMAGES RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES. IT MUST BE CLEAR TO THE AMERICAN SIDE THAT THE INCESSANT OUTRAGES TO WHICH SOVIET AGENCIES AND THEIR PERSONNEL ARE BEING SUBJECTED IN THE U.S., UNDERSTANDABLY AROUSE FEELINGS OF PROTEST AND INDIGNATION AMONG SOVIET PEOPLE AND CAN HAVE UNFAVORABLE EFFECTS ON THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE AND WORK OF AMERICAN PERSONNEL IN THE SOVIET UNION."

3. KORNIYENKO THEN REITERATED THAT U.S. AUTHORITIES HAD NOT TAKEN EFFECTIVE ACTIONS TO HALT SUCH DEMONSTRATIONS. "WHAT IF WE WERE TO SHOW ON OUR TELEVISION WHAT IS HAPPENING TO OUR PEOPLE IN NEW YORK?" HE ASKED RHETORICALLY. WE DO NOT WANT TO DO THIS. IF WE SHOWED SUCH INSULTS TO OUR PEOPLE, OR EVEN IF WE PRINTED IT IN THE PRESS, IT WOULD BE BOUND TO INFLUENCE OUR PUBLIC, WHICH WOULD WISH TO TAKE RECIPROCAL ACTION AGAINST AMERICANS IN THE SOVIET UNION.

4. I REPLIED TO KORNIYENKO THAT I WOULD REPORT THIS MATTER TO WASHINGTON, BUT WAS NOT AWARE OF THESE NEW INCIDENTS WHICH HE REFERRED TO. IT WAS MY UNDERSTANDING, I ADDED, THAT DURING SIMILAR DEMONSTRATIONS OUR AUTHORITIES HAD TAKEN SUITABLE ACTION AND THAT ARRESTS HAD BEEN MADE. WE DO EVERYTHING WE CAN WITHIN OUR LAWS, I SAID, TO INSURE THE SAFETY OF SOVIET INSTALLATIONS AND PEOPLE IN THE U.S. WE REGRET ANY PERSONAL EFFECTS WHICH THIS SORT OF INCIDENT HAS HAD ON SOVIETS IN THE U.S. AND UNDERSTAND THAT SUCH OCCASIONS ARE OBVIOUSLY UNPLEASANT. HOWEVER, THE SOVIET CONFIDENTIAL

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SIDE MUST UNDERSTAND, I ADDED, THAT OUR GOVERNMENT STRONGLY DISAPPROVES SUCH ACTIONS BY DEMONSTRATORS. IN ANY CASE, I SAID THAT I VERY MUCH HOPED AMERICANS IN THE SOVIET UNION WOULD NOT BE SUBJECT TO ANY UNPLEASANTNESS. THIS COULD ONLY COMPLICATE MATTERS NEEDLESSLY.

5. KORNIYENKO RESPONDED THAT THE SOVIET SIDE DOES NOT WANT SUCH INCIDENTS TO HAPPEN EITHER IN THE SOVIET UNION OR IN THE UNITED

STATE, BUT, HE SAID, "OUR PATIENCE IS NOT LIMITLESS". WE HAVE BEEN VERY DISSATISFIED, HE SAID, WITH THE CONDUCT OF U.S. AUTHORITIES IN THESE CASES. DEMONSTRATORS HAVE OPENLY STATED ON U.S. TELEVISION THAT THEY HAVE TAKEN PART IN SUCH ILLEGAL DEMONSTRATIONS. IN OTHER WORDS, THEY PUBLICLY ADMIT THAT THEY ARE BREAKING U.S. LAWS AND NOTHING IS SUBSEQUENTLY DONE TO THEM.

6. WE HAVE SEEN, KORNIYENKO SAID, HOW U.S. POLICE HANDLED DEMONSTRATORS IN CHICAGO, OR DURING THE VARIOUS ANTI-WAR DEMONSTRATIONS. WE KNOW THAT THE POLICE CAN TAKE EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO HANDLE DEMONSTRATIONS WHEN THEY WANT TO. OUR PEOPLE DAILY UNDERGO INSULTS. ROCKS ARE THROWN AT THEM AND THEY ARE SPAT UPON. PLACARDS ARE HELD UP SAYING "RUSSIAN BLOOD SHOULD FLOW ON THE SIDEWALKS," OR "TWO RUSSIANS FOR EVERY JEW." THIS KIND OF THING IS SIMPLY INTOLERABLE AND WE WOULD HOPE THAT IMMEDIATE STEPS WILL BE UNDERTAKEN TO GUARD AGAINST FUTURE INCIDENTS OF THIS KIND.

7. IN RESPONSE, I SAID THAT WE UNDERSTAND THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH THE SOVIET SIDE REGARDS THIS INCIDENT AND REITERATED THAT I WILL REPORT HIS REMARKS ON THIS MATTER TO WASHINGTON.

8. COMMENT: KORNIYENKO APPEARED GENUINELY EXERCISED ON THIS MATTER AND IT IS CLEAR THAT SOVIETS ARE INCREASINGLY DISTURBED BY RECURRING DEMONSTRATIONS. HIS COMMENTS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF RECIPROCAL ACTION AGAINST AMERICANS AND THE SENTENCE IN THE ORAL STATEMENT IN THIS REGARD STRIKE US AS CONSIDERABLY TOUGHER THAN ANYTHING WE HAVE HEARD IN LAST TWO YEARS FROM SOVIETS.
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